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STATINTL

## Looking Under the Cloak

Allen Dulles, former head of the central intelligence agency, has renewed in a magazine article his opposition to any additional congressional control over the agency. His argument comes when there is new questioning of the effectiveness of all of our intelligence agencies.

As the former spy, Dulles undoubtedly is reluctant to have anyone looking too closely over the shoulders of his successors. Spies work best in the dark. But there is a stronger argument that calls for some form of continuing surveillance of our surveillants. This is, after all, a democratic government and shouldn't be administered like a castle of Borgias.

A Hoover commission task force recommended that there be some form of continuous check on the CIA and other intelligence agencies. It warned that "there is always a danger that . . . freedom from restraints could inspire laxity and abuses which might prove costly to the American people." Systematic review of intelligence activity is "a matter of future insurance," the task force said.

Some congressmen, including Representative Zablocki (Dem., Wis.), have advocated a joint congressional committee to check intelligence services just as such a committee surveys activities of the atomic energy commission. In the latter case there has been little conflict and no breach of national security. Instead, the public has been given some assurance that the atomic energy program, which played a large part in secret, probably conducted.

The idea raised in 1956 to set up any kind of a CIA check. The argument was that it was too secret and that there would be no check by committee. The point to approve its budget. And it was relatively secret. A more independent check is needed.

The idea came under some criticism in 1958, with the Cuban invasion and other methods of recent crisis. The committee on the other hand, some having the opinion that it would be useless.

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